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FOR

1900

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL ISSUE.

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HITHUR.

On the 3rd instant, at Laihow, the wife of P. E.
O'Brien-Burke, of H.M. Consular Service, of
a daughter.On the 5th March, at "Harley," the wife of
Laurence Gibbs, P.W.S., of a daughter.

1900.

1900.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, March 6th, 1900.

To a casual observer it might seem strange that the question of the revision of the Tariff in China, which has been a matter for considerable discussion in England, should in China itself scarcely occupy a thought. It might, indeed, seem that our residents in China were so busily occupied in their own petty businesses that they failed to find time for the discussion of a topic so universal as the Tariff. It is now several months since H. E. Li Hung-Chang was appointed by the Empress Dowager, Minister of Finance, with the express object of revising the Tariff; and yet so little notice has been taken of so important a fact that not one meeting has been held for one suggestion or recommendation made to the British or other Ministers. Surely our critics will say: Such a people are little worth our sympathy or consideration, who permit so vital a subject to pass without a moment's consideration. The simple fact is that the residents in China are by this time too well aware of the ordinary strategy of the Chinese not to perceive that the raising of the Tariff question is only an attempt to draw a red herring across the scent, and divert public opinion from the main facts of the case, which are far deeper and more important at the moment than any question of Tariff. On this Tariff question, it may be stated that there is nothing new, and the communities have long ago made up their minds. The present rate of duties was fixed some forty years ago, on a schedule intended to represent as nearly as possible a five per cent. scale. The prices of staples have materially changed since then; and it would be simple work for a committee of experts to reassess the values of commodities forming, then the staples of trade, and to place an assessment on these new productions which have since entered to an important extent into the commerce of the Far East. So in the problem is an easy one and involves no political question whatever. On the next stage there will be differences of opinion, and those not international. The question is, What rate should in fairness be fixed, so as to put the least weight on trade. It is generally conceded that the present rate, without detriment, but

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race has been fixed for the 31st of this month.

On February 3rd England beat Ireland in the Rugby International match by two goals and two tries to a goal, after losing for four years in succession.

Two antarctic expeditions are being fitted out for this year, one English and one German.

There were 3,300 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 163 were Europeans.

A notice will be seen on this page of the places where Subscription Lists to the Indian Pines Relief Fund may be found.

The Roburis, of Class of Communicable Disease, the Colony for the week ending 31st March show one case and one death from plague; one case of enteric fever; and two of Puerperal, all with one death.

The religious demonstrations during the last few days at Macao were carried out on a very large scale, thousands of people without and taking part in the processions. Several hundred visitors went from Hongkong to see the processions.

2,439 prisoners in Victoria Gaol last year were reported as breaking out of prison discipline, being an average per prisoner of 5.65, compared with 4,633 with an average per prisoner of 7.59 for the preceding year. The throwing of tobacco over the prison walls caused an increase of 100 in the number of the reports for having tobacco.

The Kerdine Monopoly at Macao has since been stopped owing to the non-fulfilment of the contract by the farmer, whereupon he was bound to pay to the Government the indemnity stipulated in the same contract.

Two different shops, where European and Chinese goods are sold, but one which requires higher qualities of statesmanship than are possessed by any Chinese statesman of this generation to put in practice. Divide et Impera represents more closely the form it has taken in reality. The only hope indeed for China in her present predicament is to bring about such an understanding amongst the Powers as is indicated by Mr. Hay's Memorandum. But an statesman such as Li Hung-Chang, Prince Cheng, Yung Yu, or the utterly unprincipled Yuen Shu Kai, capable of perverting this truth? Surely not; and herein lies the great weakness of Mr. Hay's well-meaning scheme. Russia might be supposed to grasp the plan and work in harmony and conjunction, but as long as men like those we have mentioned remain in charge of the helm, discord will always be found to divide the Powers, and afford the means for separate action. In the interests of China, as well as of foreign commercial states, it has long ago been pointed out how seriously the present regulations as to export duties hamper China's powers of production. How these affect China we may learn from a speech made by the Chinaman at the sixth ordinary meeting of the Shareholders of the Lao-Kungmen Cotton Mill at Shanghai. In the course of his speech Mr. F. Anderson said:—"During the year it is calculated that there is open a million and a quarter of tuns have been paid in Shanghai, half alone for wages and salaries in the Cotton Mills. Much of this money would have been lost to China, but for the establishment of this industry, and under those circumstances one would expect that the Government would be disposed to do all in its power to foster it; instead of this being the case, mills in China are handicapped in several ways compared with Indian, Japanese or Hongkong mills. For instance, we have to pay duty on Indian and American Cotton, on our stores and coal, on paper, caravans, and hoops to make our bales, and in addition have to pay duty on our yarn at the same rate as imported yarn; our competitors elsewhere are exempt from this double duty. Again if we tried to compete with spinners elsewhere in any market outside of China, we have to pay an export duty from which they are exempt; when we buy cotton from Hongkong, or any other Treaty ports in China we have to pay coast-trade duty, which is in addition to the duty payable on yarn. It is to be hoped that the native authorities will be brought to see that it is contrary to the interests of China to retard the development of such an important addition to the wealth of the country, and that before long they will follow the example of all progressive countries and endeavour to foster native industry."

Although Mr. Anderson's speech referred solely to the cotton-spinning industry, the same hindering restrictions are on every productive industry in China—textiles, silk, straw-braid, coal, paper, sugar, &c. &c. Here is a burden which it lies in China's own hands to shake off, and in the removal of which she will have the assistance of all the nations. On the whole, looked at from a practical point of view, an amended Tariff in China is one in which there is virtual accord amongst the nations having trading interests. Any difficulty has been China's own deliberate invention, and the stumbling blocks in the way of a vastly increased revenue are the result of the crooked and dishonest machinations of discredited statesmen like Li Hung-Chang and his associates.

The steamer *Kong Albert*, which passed the Rock at 1 p.m. yesterday, only left Singapore at 1 p.m. on the 1st inst., thus making the voyage in the fine time of four days exactly.

A Tonkin paper publishes the announcement of General Galliéni in the French Chamber that, through an improvement discovered by himself, the French army will soon be furnished with the best rifle in the world. The difference from the Lebel rifle will be a movable magazine, to facilitate loading, and a superior repeating action.

What does *Le Monde* of Paris mean by its statement that "the English are not to be blamed for the rebellion in Manchuria"? Owing to her profligate gambling, she was some hours late in putting away from the wharf, arriving at Macao at 8.30 p.m. When she left the Grande, the steamer had to back several yards on her propeller to Hongkong. This accounted for the cable interruption between her and Macao. Captain Clarke having been transferred to the American ship, the *Wing Foo*, which was in charge of the *Hongkong*, however, was in no wise responsible for the mistake.

The *Le Monde* had a somewhat similar experience on the *Hongkong*, which sailed she was some hours late in putting away from the Grande, arriving at Macao at 8.30 p.m. When she left the Grande, the steamer had to back several yards on her propeller to Hongkong.

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CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 3rd March.

Canton is the most popular form of gambling here. Until lately it was carried on covertly, by bribing the officials; but now the authorities, seeing the uselessness of prohibiting the game, have turned it into a source of revenue for the government, and it is carried on under official protection. The commanding officer of Kowloon Hip undertakes to pay for the license one million taels annually, and this license he farms out to all the gambling houses in the city and the suburbs. The money thus obtained from gambling goes to defray the expenses for the increase of army and navy.

On the 1st instant nearly all the gambling houses were re-opened, displaying large signs with gilt characters on them while the soldiers of Kowloon Hip in their uniforms guarded the doors. Gambling was in full swing and night. A license for a first-class gambling house is from 60 to 70 taels a month; for the medium houses from 20 to 40 taels; and for the lowest establishment about 10 taels.

There are now from 40 to 50 kinds of lottery

here, genuine and otherwise. It is reported that the Wishing lottery-farmers have offered the highest teles for them, it is likely that they will succeed in obtaining a monopoly. It may be said now that Canton is the chief gambling haunt of China.

On the 24th, 25th and 26th ult., being the

Feast of Lettuce, many people made

pilgrimage to the temple of the white-robed

goddess of mercy at Kun Yen, to make their

vows and pray the goddess for children, and

so on, largely on lottery.

The Chinese—Divided warrants will be posted to-day. That concludes the business of the meeting. I am much obliged to you for your attendance.

The steady expansion that has characterized it during the past, I think we are now making, and others that we contemplate will not fail to yield clear fruit in due season. I do not think that that is of much interest to me.

I add to the interests, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN pro-

posed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. MICHAEL seconded.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. Hoo Fook, seconded by

Mr. G. M. Moore, the appointments of Messrs. E.

Gao, D. M. Moore, J. A. Mackay, and A. G.

Wood to the Board of Directors were confirmed.

Messrs. N. A. Siebs and A. J. Raymond were

elected to the Directorate on the motion of Mr. TH

HONGKONG
BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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THE MUTUAL STORES
Sub-agents Lipton, Ltd.
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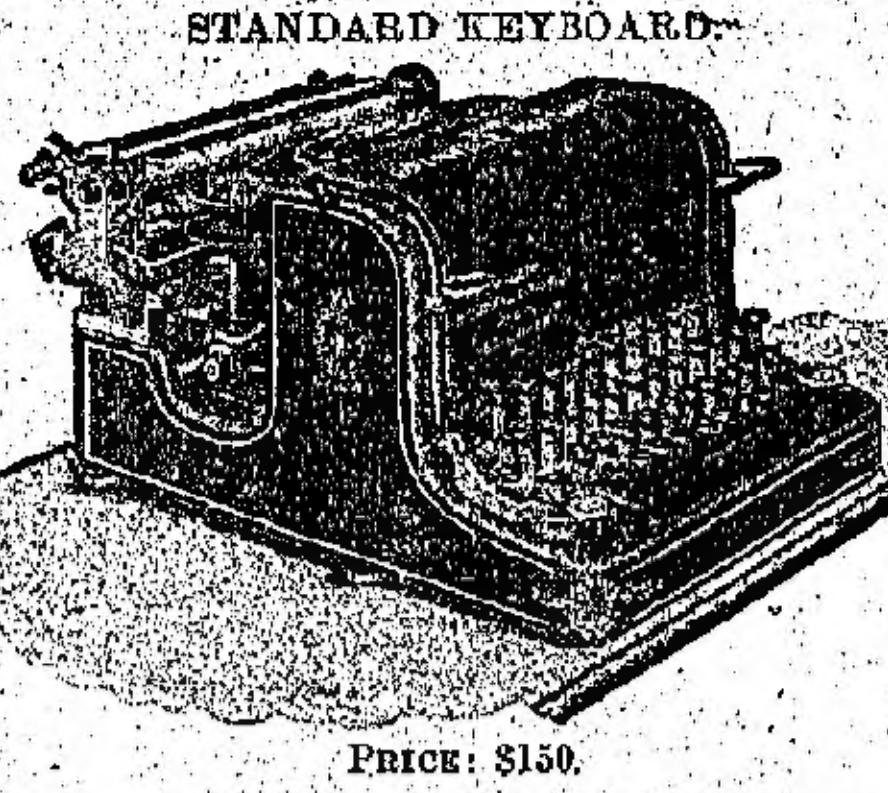
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NO. 1426 TO CONSIGNEES

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

THE P. & O. S. N. CO'S STEAMSHIP

"PARRAMATTA."

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

This vessel brings no Cargo—

From London, &c., ex. ss. India.

Goods not cleared by the 8th instant, at 4 p.m. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

All damaged packages must be left in the Godowns, and a certificate of the damage obtained from the Godown Company within ten days after the vessel's arrival here, after which no claims will be recognized.

H. A. RITCHIE,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1900.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer

"GLAUCUS"

are hereby notified that the Cargo is being discharged into Craft and/or landed at the Godowns of the Undersigned; in both cases it will lie at Consignees' risk. The Cargo will be ready for delivery from Craft or Godown on and after the 27th inst.

Optional cargo will be landed, unless notice has been given prior to steamer's arrival.

Goods undelivered after the 6th March will be subject to rent. All damaged Goods must be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined at 11 a.m. on the 6th March.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 27th February, 1900.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP

COMPANY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "MONMOUTHSHIRE"

FROM PORTLAND, OR., YOKOHAMA,

KOBE AND MOJI.

THE above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature, and to take in immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,

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Hongkong, 1st March, 1900.

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SHIPERS.

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LAURENT, MARIEZINER & CO.

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Hongkong, 17th March, 1900.

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is now prepared to receive perishable

provisions for Cold Storage at EAST POINT at

Moderate Rates.

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Hongkong, 17th February, 1899.

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J. B. WHITE & BROS.

SOLE AGENTS FOR CHINA,

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.

Hongkong, 18th February, 1900.

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do not know they are doing wrong, and the object of giving them notice is to remind them that they have to do certain things to comply with the law. Of course I am quite willing to admit the general principle that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but law-givers in my country do not care to harass the people. Section 2 has been introduced because there was some delay in carrying out certain by-laws made under section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance. Under that section the Sanitary Board have power to make, and, when made, to alter, amend, or repeal by-laws with regard to the proper construction, trapping, ventilating, and maintenance of private house-drains, etc., the provision and proper construction of dust-boxes in private premises, etc. Section 29 of the present Bill said:—"Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887 (No. 24 of 1887), it shall be lawful for the Sanitary Board, in its discretion, to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any by-law duly made, under section 13 of each Ordinance, without previously issuing a notice to the offender stating what is required to be done to carry out the provisions of such by-law, and upon conviction for a contravention of any such by-law the Magistrate may impose a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars." I took part in the discussion when section 13 was before the Council, and we all unanimously agreed that we could get the Chinese and the general public to comply with the law with a little trouble, without any prosecution. I think we should continue to give the notices, and then, if the notices are without effect, the maximum punishment should be inflicted. A reasonable notice as regards lime-washing is all that is required. As regards the construction of drains, a longer notice is necessary.

The Hon. E. R. Bellios endorsed the sentiments of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY — I think the honourable member opposite is under a misapprehension. The whole pith of his remarks would seem to show that he thinks the tenants will have to lime-wash, whereas it is the landlords. He has told us that there is no necessity for giving notice in connection with the by-law made under sub-section 13 as to the proper construction, etc., of house drains. These are things, he tells us, that every body ought to know. I ask, is it a great deal to ask of the landlords of the colony to bear in mind the particular months within which they have to have their premises white-washed?

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai said that the Acting Colonial Secretary had misquoted him. He said just the opposite.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY — It was a question of tenants there might be something in what the honourable member has said, but where it is a question of landlords I fail to see the force of his remarks, and I would further point out that the law as it stands is utterly absurd. This sub-section 1 of section 13 refers to various matters, including the prevention of the manufacture or sale of unsound, adulterated, or unwholesome food. If the Inspector finds some rotten meat in the market he is to give a min-seven days' notice to destroy it? Then again, it includes the manufacture and sale of poisons and the sale of unsound and adulterated drugs. Then if a man fails to report a case of plague the Sanitary Board cannot successfully prosecute until they have given seven days' notice. The Board have consulted the law officers of the Crown and have been advised that reasonable notice means at least seven days' notice. The honourable member seems to think that 24-hour notice would be sufficient for white-washing, but we have been advised to the contrary, and in all cases we have been obliged to give seven days' notice. The result is that at the beginning of every lime-washing season the Board is careful to send out notices reminding landlords that it is their duty within a given time to have their premises lime-washed. Then the inspectors go round and report that such and such houses have not been lime-washed. Then the Board have to issue other notices, and if these have no effect the prosecution follows. I can assure the Board that as the law stands it is utterly impossible to carry the lime-washing regulations out. The Board do not recommend an alteration of the law without good reason. If they could do without amending the law they would gladly do so, but things have come to a deadlock, and that is the reason why the Board asked the Government to institute this legislation.

On the motion for the second reading, below, put to the vote it was carried, though the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. Wei A Yuk, the Hon. C. P. Chater, and the Hon. E. R. Bellios voted against.

The Bill was then considered at some length in committee. The Attorney-General had recommended that the secretary of the Sanitary Board, or such other officer as the Board may designate, should institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate, but on His Excellency's suggestion, it was decided to add a proviso to the effect that any person so deputed should first obtain the sanction of the Medical Officer of Health or the Secretary before instituting such proceedings.

The Bill passed through the committee and the council resumed.

CERTIFICATES FOR CHINSE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed and the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded a motion to the effect that the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize the imposition of fees for the issue by the Government of Hongkong of certain certificates to certain Chinese be read a second time.

This was carried, and the Bill was then taken through the committee stage.

THE EXTENSION TO TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the establishment of a Hospital for infectious diseases in connection with the Tung Wa Hospital, explained that the Bill provided that the Government should be indemnified from any claim made against them in respect of the bill in question.

The Council adjourned until Thursday.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council Meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding, when the following votes were agreed to —

A sum of \$3,650 being compensation to the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, for the loss of certain cattle at "Sassoon's Villa."

A sum of \$1,000 to meet the expenditure for extending the telephone line in the New Territory.

The CHAIRMAN explained as to the first vote, that some cattle were accidentally burned to death while the shed was being disinfected by an officer of the Sanitary Board, and as to the second that the line was to run to Starine Inlet. This was all the business.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The Glen Line steamer *Glenartney*, from Middlesbrough, London and the Straits, left Singapore on the 10th inst., and is expected to arrive here on the 14th inst.

The P. & O. steamer *Shanghai* left Singapore for this port on the 3rd inst. at 4 p.m.

The O. S. S. steamer *Hector* left Singapore on 3rd inst., and is due in Hongkong on 8th inst.

The German Mail steamer *Kong Albert* will leave for Shanghai to-day at noon for Nagasaki, Kobe and Yokohama.

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